

## Principle #9

# Spiritual Gifts 201

*OK - so, what's my gift?*



## Principles of Discipleship

Last week we discussed the principle of spiritual gifts. Now we're ready to explore how that concept relates to each of us: *How do I fit into the body of Christ?*

### ◆ Understanding My Gift

*"Since it is God who distributes the gifts out of the bounty of His grace there is no ultimate difference between those who exercise one gift and those who exercise another."*

- Bridge and Phipers

1. If everyone has a gift, how come so many of them are still "unwrapped"?
2. What does the teaching of spiritual gifts have to say to a person with an inferiority complex? with an attitude of superiority? (see 1 Cor 12:12-26)
3. Does the fact that I have a gift make me spiritually mature? *What is the difference between a spiritual gift and the fruit of the Spirit (see Galatians 5:22,23)?*



### ◆ Finding My Gift

1. Ray Stedman says, "You discover a spiritual gift just like you discovered your natural talents!" What ministries or ways of service have you tried? What were the results?
2. What do you think your spiritual gifts are?
3. What do you think are the spiritual gifts of the people in your group?

*I would suspect that probably the majority, or perhaps all Christians, have what we could call a "gift-mix" instead of a single gift... We are used to the idea that each individual has his or her own personality. God's children are similar. Every Christian is a unique member of the Body of Christ, and his or her identity is determined to a significant degree by the gift-mix he or she has been given."*

Peter Wagner,  
Your Spiritual Gifts Can Help Your Church Grow

## Discerning an individual's spiritual gift(s).

Many believers wonder what their spiritual gifts are. How can they find out?

It is important to remember that spiritual gifts operate in a relational context. It is in a climate marked by intimate sharing and love that we respond to others' needs and that God the Spirit ministers through us to serve them. Given this, we can outline the way that spiritual gifts can be identified.

- First, Christians must develop close relationships with other believers. Within this context a person will respond appropriately to shared needs.
- Second, Christians must be willing to reach out and serve others, seeking to help and to minister to personal, emotional, material, and spiritual needs. In responding to others and in seeking to serve them, God the Holy Spirit has opportunity to work through the individual.
- Third, the ministry of God the Spirit through the individual will eventually be recognized by others in the community of faith. It is the testimony of others concerning how God has worked through an individual that is decisive in identifying that person's spiritual gifts.
- Fourth, as gifts are identified, each believer must seek opportunities to minister in appropriate ways that use his or her gifts for the benefit of others.

- from Larry Richards' Expository Dictionary of Bible Words



## Spiritual Gifts and Ministry

One of our values is what we call “every-member ministry”. This means that we desire to have a church full of servants, not just spectators. We believe that God has gifted every Christian with one or more gifts in a “mix” that is uniquely theirs. No two Christians are exactly alike.

### *How do I find my gift?*

The process of discovering your spiritual gifts includes the following steps. It is important to realize that these are not automatic, and may require years of trial and error, and yet God will “steer” each believer into the area where He wants them to serve.

- **Learn** about spiritual gifts. Read the passages related to spiritual gifts in Ephesians, 4, 1 Peter 4, 1 Corinthians 12 and Romans 12. Read the brochure on gifts written by Ron Ritchie.
- **Try** a wide variety of ministries.
- **Find out** which ones you felt were most effective.
- **Ask good friends**, who have seen you serve, to honestly tell you where they think you’re most effective.
- **Take** a spiritual gifts test. There are a number available and these are not fool-proof, but they often help narrow the options down.
- **Ask yourself** after awhile: what do I really enjoy doing? Surprise! The place where God wants you to serve will be the place that “fits” you the best, and ultimately where you’ll find the most fulfillment. If you find yourself dreading a particular ministry, it may be that you’re not gifted for it. In fact, some people do not think that their gift is in a certain area, because they like it too much. Serving and using your gifts is meant to be a joy (although it often includes hard work), not a miserable experience.

Once you’ve found your area of giftedness, look for opportunities to use it! There are usually many needy areas in the church that could use someone like you. If you have a passion for a ministry that doesn’t yet exist, then pray about it, seek other like-minded people, and wait for God’s timing. It might be that He wants you to wait a year or two, but at the same time it might be a ministry just waiting for someone like you to get it started! But don’t be a lone ranger - ministries work best when a team of people with different gifts works together.

## SPIRITUAL GIFTS INVENTORY

Answer spontaneously and honestly; don't be modest!

Place your answers next to the question numbers: **0** for *not at all*, **1** for *slightly*, **2** for *somewhat*, **4** for *greatly*.  
*"I would feel fulfilled in the following way..."*

1. Helping new people understand.
2. Encouraging someone who is downhearted.
3. Having a good, healthy cry when someone else is hurting.
4. Being called on to assist others in a variety of ways.
5. Organizing people and things.
6. Giving away more than 10% of my income.
7. Accepting responsibilities.
8. Telling someone about Jesus Christ.
9. Being called upon to do special jobs around the church.
10. Going out on a limb for God.
11. Relating to a certain group of people over a long period of time, personally in the successes and their failures.
12. Explaining what something means.
13. Cheering people onward when they are doing a good job.
14. Being a "good Samaritan."
15. Doing routine things if they will help someone else.
16. Accomplishing objectives.
17. Providing financial aid to others.
18. Inspiring people to do things I know need to be done.
19. Praying with someone to receive Christ.
20. Taking initiative in doing what needs to be done for others.
21. Believing something will happen when others disbelieve.
22. Assuming the responsibility for the spiritual well-being of a particular group of Christians.
23. Seeing the light of understanding "click on" in someone.
24. Encouraging people toward goals they should be accomplishing.
25. Forgiving someone who has wronged me.
26. Cleaning up after the party is over.
27. Planning things properly.
28. Having people borrow things from me.
29. Making important decisions.
30. Talking about what my faith means to me.
31. Accomplishing routine tasks and doing them well.
32. "Hanging in there" because God said to.
33. I feel unafraid of giving spiritual guidance and direction in a group of Christians.
34. Being responsible for imparting knowledge to others.
35. Bringing out the best in others.
36. Calling on the sick and shut-ins.
37. Relieving distress of various kinds.
38. Overseeing what needs to be done.
39. Looking to God to supply my needs.
40. Directing others toward accomplishing a goal.
41. Seeing an "unlikely someone" in church.
42. Being active and doing something rather than sitting around talking, reading or listening to a speaker.
43. Getting guidance from God.
44. Guiding fellow believers to relevant portions of the Bible and praying for them.
45. Telling others what I have learned from the Bible.
46. Showing a person "a better way."
47. Helping someone who is "down and out."
48. Helping others achieve their goals.
49. Seeing that all the "loose ends" are tied together.
50. Having things available that others need.
51. Seeing a program I have devised put into practice.
52. Leading a person into a relationship with Jesus Christ.
53. I respond cheerfully when asked to do a job, even if it seems menial.
54. Trusting God rather than circumstances.
55. Restoring people to the Christian community.
56. Helping others become dedicated Christians.
57. Assisting those who feel defeated.
58. Doing something about people's needs.
59. Supporting people in their ministries.
60. Solving problems.
61. Sharing what I have with others.
62. Knowing that others share my vision.
63. Taking a stranger to church.
64. Serving someone who has a special need.
65. Seeing God "come through" in a situation.
66. Watching a group "grow up" together.

# Spiritual Gifts Inventory Score Sheet

## *Which Gifts are Mine?*

Determine which areas your gifts appear to lie in by placing your answers in the appropriate boxes, then adding them up across the line. You can get an indication of which spiritual gifts you may have by determining the gifts which have a greater total value than the others listed.

**Note:** This is not intended to be a perfect test! However it will tend to surface some true characteristics, and should be combined with Scriptural study and discussion with members of your group who know you and can give you honest feedback.

### Gifts

### Record Your Responses

### Total Score

<b>Teaching</b>	1	12	23	34	45	56	
<b>Encouragement</b>	2	13	24	35	46	57	
<b>Mercy</b>	3	14	25	36	47	58	
<b>Helps</b>	4	15	26	37	48	59	
<b>Administration</b>	5	16	27	38	49	60	
<b>Giving</b>	6	17	28	39	50	61	
<b>Leadership</b>	7	18	29	40	51	62	
<b>Evangelism</b>	8	19	30	41	52	63	
<b>Service</b>	9	20	31	42	53	64	
<b>Faith</b>	10	21	32	43	54	65	
<b>Shepherd</b>	11	22	33	44	55	66	

## **SCRIPTURE**

*Which verses significantly impacted you and why?*



## **ARTICLE**

*What gifts do you think you may have after filling out the Spiritual Gifts Inventory?*



## **PRINCIPLE**

*Summarize the truth you've learned in a concise statement:*



## **LIFE APPLICATION**

1. *How do your passions relate to your spiritual gifts?*

2. *What might we do to sharpen and refine the gifts that God has given us?*

